

Security Message
January 20, 2014

All U.S. Citizens should continue to avoid the areas of downtown Kyiv where demonstrations are taking place as well as any other areas where they encounter demonstrations or a large police presence. Recent clashes between police and protesters have grown significantly more violent. Hundreds of people have been reported injured. Protesters in Kyiv continue to occupy Independence square and adjacent buildings.

Further clashes between police and protesters are possible. The situation is fluid. The location and nature of demonstrations and the methods employed by the police may change quickly and without warning. Protest and pro-government groups typically hold larger rallies on weekends. Demonstrations are also occurring in other cities throughout Ukraine.

Protesters have blocked roads and may do so again. Individuals should exercise caution when moving around the city. Citizens whose residences or hotels are located in areas with gatherings of protestors and police should leave the area or plan for the possibility they might have to remain inside should clashes occur. U.S. citizens should monitor media coverage and stay aware of the ongoing situation.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Ukraine enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Ukraine. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website. Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and download our free Smart Traveler App, available through the iTunes store and Google Play store, to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv is located at 4 A.I. Sikorsky St. (formerly Tankova), Kyiv, Ukraine and is open Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., +380-44-521-5000. **If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +380-44-521-5000.**